

ClaimsSub A3

1. A device for detecting a disease of the udder of an animal, comprising means (9) for appreciating a parameter related to the quantity of milk extracted from a first teat and at least a second teat of said animal during at least one milking operation, means (6) arranged to determine a deviation of said parameter of the first teat from a comparison value, and means (7) arranged to display said deviation as an indication of an inflammation of the first teat at least in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level, characterized in that the determining means (6) is arranged to define said comparison value by including the level of said parameter regarding said second teat during said milking operation.
2. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the first teat and said second teat form one of a rearward pair of teats of the udder or a forward pair of teats of the udder.
3. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said comparison value includes the level of said parameter of at least one preceding milking operation of said animal.
4. A device according to claim 3, characterized in that the determining means (6, 8) is arranged to consider the time interval between the milking operation and the immediately preceding milking operation of said animal for determining said deviation.
5. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said parameter includes the quantity of milk produced during said milking operation and that the appreciating means (9) includes a milk measuring device.
6. A device according to claim 5, characterized in that the milk measuring device (9) includes a flow meter.

7. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said parameter includes the time duration of said milking operation and that the appreciating means includes a time measuring device (8).

8. A method of detecting a disease of the udder of an animal, comprising the steps of:  
appreciating a parameter related to the quantity of milk extracted from a first teat and at least a second teat of said animal during at least one milking operation,  
defining a comparison value by the level of said parameter regarding said second teat during said milking operation,  
determining a deviation of said parameter of the first teat from said comparison value, and  
indicating an inflammation of the first teat at least in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level.

9. A method according to claim 8, comprising the further step of:  
displaying said deviation as an indication of an inflammation of the first teat in the case that said deviation exceeds a certain level.

10. A method according to any of claim 8 and 9, wherein the first said teat and said second teat form one of a rearward pair of teats of the udder or a forward pair of teats of the udder.

11. A method according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein said comparison value includes the level of said parameter of at least one preceding milking operation of said animal.

12. A method according to claim 11, comprising the step of:  
considering the time interval between said milking operation and the nearest preceding milking operation of said animal when determining said deviation.

13. A method according to any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein said appreciating step includes measuring the quantity of milk extracted from the actual teat during said milking operation.

- 5 14. A method according to any one of claims 8 to 13, wherein said appreciating step includes measuring the time duration of one milking operation of the actual teat.

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